



### AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 8 as follows:

The tubular couplings have a standard diameter, at least with regard to the portion to be inserted in the sleeve (9), so it can be correctly coupled with sleeves (9) currently available in the market place. In a preferred embodiment, the inner diameter of the tubular coupling is substantially the same as the inner diameter of the conduit and the outer diameter of the tubular coupling is substantially the same as the outer diameter of the ~~tubular coupling~~ conduit.